

Children's Health Status

— North Carolina 2007–2009



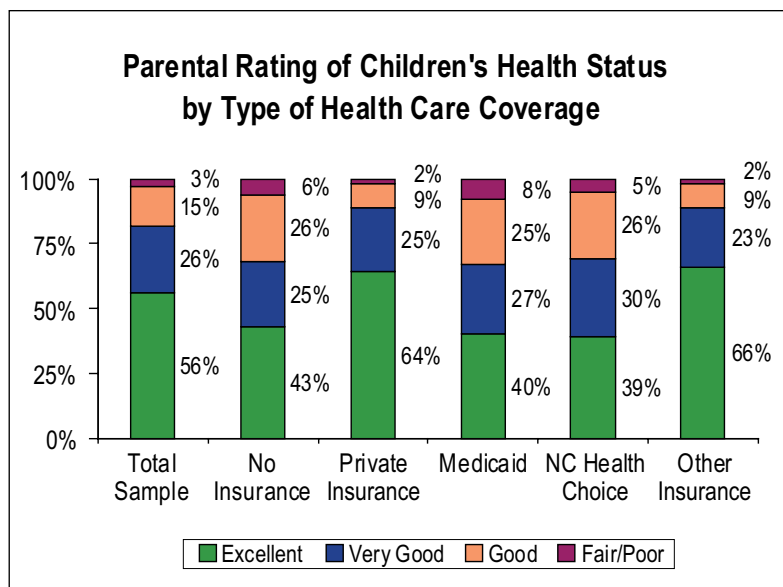
December 2010

Health Insurance

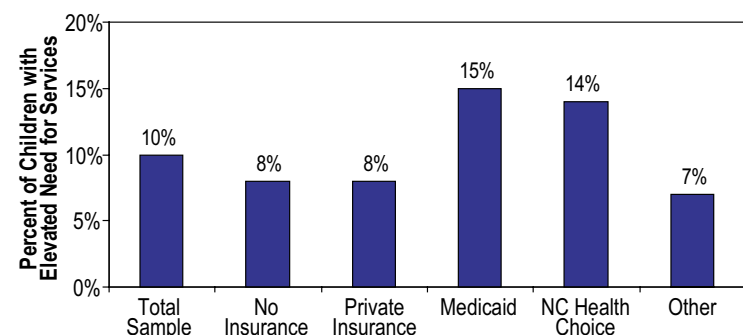
Ninety-four percent of parents surveyed in North Carolina reported that their child (age 0 to 17 years) is currently covered under some type of health insurance plan. Fifty-seven percent of children ages 0 to 17 years are covered by private insurance; 26 percent are covered under Medicaid (including Health Check and Carolina ACCESS); 4 percent are covered under NC Health Choice, a free- or reduced-price government-funded health care program for children; 7 percent have coverage through the military (e.g., CHAMPUS, TRICARE) or some other type of health insurance, unspecified. This report compares health status among children covered by different types of health insurance coverage.

General Health Status by Type of Health Care Coverage

Overall, 56 percent of parents rated their children's health as "excellent," 26 percent as "very good," 15 percent as "good," and 3 percent as "fair or poor." Children's general health status rating varies by type of health care coverage. Children with private health insurance (64% [CI 62-66])† and with "other" insurance (66% [CI 61-70]) are more likely to be rated as in "excellent" health, compared to 40 percent [CI 37-43] with Medicaid, 39 percent [CI 32-46] with NC Health Choice, and 44 percent [CI 38-50] without insurance. Less than 2 percent of children covered by private health insurance [CI 1-2] or "other" insurance [CI 1-3] are rated as in "fair or poor" health, compared to 5 percent of children with NC Health Choice [CI 2-8] or children without health care coverage (6% [CI 3-8]). Children with Medicaid are the most likely to be rated as in "fair or poor" health (8% [CI 6-10]).



Prevalence of Children's Elevated Need for Services Due to a Chronic Condition by Type of Health Care Coverage



Elevated Need for Services Due to a Chronic Condition by Type of Health Care Coverage

In general, 10 percent of parents reported that their child currently needs or uses more medical care, mental health, or educational services than is usual for most children of the same age because of a medical, behavioral, or other health condition that has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months (i.e., special health care needs). Children's elevated need for services varied by type of health care coverage. According to the survey, rates of elevated need for services are greater among children with Medicaid (15% [CI 13-17]) and NC Health Choice (14% [CI 9-18]), compared to children with private insurance (8% [CI 7-9]) and uninsured (8% [CI 5-11]).

* For a detailed report, see: Miles DR, Sexton CM, Margolis LH, Sanderson M. Children's health care coverage and children's health 2007–2009: A report from the North Carolina Child Health Assessment and Monitoring Program. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, October 2010. Available at: www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/pdf/CHAMP_Health_Care_Report_2007-09.pdf.

† CI = 95 percent confidence interval; explanation for how to interpret CIs is available at www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/champ/interpreting.html.